

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL JOSEPH RHINEHART,)	No. C 11-0812 JSW (PR)
)	
Plaintiff,)	ORDER OF SERVICE
)	
v.)	
)	
MATTHEW CATE, Director of the)	
California Department of Corrections and)	
Rehabilitation; A. HEDGPETH, Warden;)	
K. HARRINGTON, Warden,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff, a California prisoner proceeding pro se, filed this rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against three prison officials. He has been granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis in a separate order. The Court now reviews the complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, and orders it served upon Defendants.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of cases in which prisoners seek redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). The Court must identify cognizable claims or dismiss any portion of the complaint, if the complaint “is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted,” or “seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune

1 from such relief.” *Id.* § 1915A(b). Pro se pleadings must be liberally construed.

2 *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

3 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires only "a short and plain statement
4 of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." "Specific facts are not
5 necessary; the statement need only "give the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim
6 is and the grounds upon which it rests." *Erickson v. Pardus*, 127 S. Ct. 2197, 2200
7 (2007) (citations omitted). Although in order to state a claim a complaint “does not need
8 detailed factual allegations, . . . a plaintiff's obligation to provide the 'grounds of his
9 'entitle[ment] to relief' requires more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic
10 recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do. . . . Factual allegations must
11 be enough to raise a right to relief above the speculative level." *Bell Atlantic Corp. v.*
12 *Twombly*, 127 S. Ct. 1955, 1964-65 (2007) (citations omitted). A complaint must proffer
13 "enough facts to state a claim for relief that is plausible on its face." *Id.* at 1974. Pro se
14 pleadings must be liberally construed. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 696,
15 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

16 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two elements:
17 (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and
18 (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state
19 law. *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

20 ANALYSIS

21 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Hedgpeth, the Warden of Salinas Valley State
22 Prison, where Plaintiff is currently incarcerated, and Defendant Harrington, the Warden
23 of Kern Valley State Prison, where Plaintiff was formerly incarcerated, each placed him
24 on “lockdown” because he is black. He alleges that Hedgpeth did this on one occasion,
25 and Harrington did it twice. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Cate, the Director of the
26 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, has “sanctioned” this practice
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1 and agreed on the “practice of race-based lockdowns.”

2 When liberally construed, Plaintiff’s allegations are sufficient to state cognizable
3 claims against these Defendants for the violation of his rights under the Equal Protection
4 Clause.

5 CONCLUSION

6 For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

7 1. The Clerk of the Court shall issue summons and the United States Marshal
8 shall serve, without prepayment of fees, a copy of the complaint and all attachments
9 thereto, and a copy of this order upon Defendants: **A. Hedgpeth, Warden, at Salinas**
10 **Valley State Prison; K. Harrington, Warden, at Kern Valley State Prison; and**
11 **Matthew Cate, Director, at the California Department of Corrections and**
12 **Rehabilitation.**

13 The Clerk shall also mail a courtesy copy of the complaint and this order to the
14 California Attorney General’s Office.

15 The Clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on Plaintiff.

16 2. In order to expedite the resolution of this case, the Court orders as follows:

17 a. No later than **ninety (90) days** from the date this order is filed,
18 Defendants shall either file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion,
19 or a notice to the Court that they are of the opinion that this matter cannot be resolved by
20 dispositive motion. The motion shall be supported by adequate factual documentation
21 and shall conform in all respects to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56.

22 **Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor**
23 **qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If defendants are of the**
24 **opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they shall so**
25 **inform the Court prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.**

26 All papers filed with the Court shall be promptly served on the Plaintiff.
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1 b. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion, if any, shall be filed with
2 the court and served upon defendants no later than thirty days from the date of service of
3 the motion. Plaintiff must read the attached page headed "NOTICE -- WARNING,"
4 which is provided to him pursuant to *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 953-954 (9th Cir.
5 1998) (en banc), and *Klingele v. Eikenberry*, 849 F.2d 409, 411-12 (9th Cir. 1988).

6 If defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss claiming that plaintiff failed
7 to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a),
8 plaintiff should take note of the attached page headed "NOTICE -- WARNING
9 (EXHAUSTION)." See *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d 1108, 1120 n. 4 (9th Cir. 2003)

10 c. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than **fifteen (15) days** after
11 Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

12 d. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is
13 due. No hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

14 3. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
15 Procedure. No further Court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or
16 Local Rule 16 is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

17 4. Extensions of time are not favored, though reasonable extensions will be
18 granted. Any motion for an extension of time must be filed no later than **five** days prior
19 to the deadline sought to be extended.

20 5. All communications by Plaintiff with the Court must be served on Defendant,
21 or Defendant's counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the
22 document to Defendant or Defendant's counsel.


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1 6. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the
2 Court informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's orders in a
3 timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to
4 prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

5 IT IS SO ORDERED.

6 DATED: March 29, 2011

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9 JEFFREY S. WHITE
10 United States District Judge
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL JOSEPH RHINEHART,
Plaintiff,

Case Number: CV11-00812 JSW

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

v.

MATTHEW CATE et al,
Defendant.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on March 29, 2011, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Michael L. Rhinehart
C39412
P.O. Box 1050
Soledad, CA 93960

Dated: March 29, 2011



Richard W. Wieking, Clerk
By: Jennifer Ottolini, Deputy Clerk

NOTICE -- WARNING (SUMMARY JUDGMENT)

If defendants move for summary judgment, they are seeking to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue of material fact--that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendant's declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.

NOTICE -- WARNING (EXHAUSTION)

If defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust, they are seeking to have your case dismissed. If the motion is granted it will end your case.

You have the right to present any evidence you may have which tends to show that you did exhaust your administrative remedies. Such evidence may be in the form of declarations (statements signed under penalty of perjury) or authenticated documents, that is, documents accompanied by a declaration showing where they came from and why they are authentic, or other sworn papers, such as answers to interrogatories or depositions.

If defendants file a motion to dismiss and it is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.